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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/618,028

07/11/2003

Dennis Hurley Byrne

TUC920030027US1

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46335 7590 09/07/2006

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EXAMINER

PUROL, SARAH L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3634

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,028

Applicant(s)

BYRNE ET AL.

Examiner

Sarah Purol

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-10 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

OFFICE ACTION

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,3,4,5,6,7,10,12,13,14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Howard 4,819,801, best seen in Figure 1. Note frame 10 having front and rear 16 and 18; top and bottom 14; sidewalls having an aperture formed between the slats 22,24 which make up the sidewall. Note partitions 30,32 defining slots. Note the rear formed of slats 16,18 has an opening. The slats engage the tapes 20 in a snug yet compliant matter. The top edges of slats 16,18 form part of the top satisfying the limitations of claims 4 and 13.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard in view of Clausen 6,039,190. Howard teaches the device absent the integral plastic construction. Clausen teaches integral plastic construction of a cassette frame. To therefore form the Howard device of integral plastic for the purpose of durability as

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taught by Clausen would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Claims 9 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Howard in view of Baxter 6,112,910. Howard teaches the device absent the opening in the front top, bottom and partitions. Baxter teaches openings in the top, bottom and partitions in figure 1. Although Baxter doesn't disclose these openings for simultaneously allowing access to all the cartridges, this design would inherently allow it. Therefore to modify Howard to include the openings as taught by Baxter for the purpose of allowing simultaneous access to all the cassettes would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Claims 2 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS

Applicant asserts that Howard does not teach the claimed partitions or slots as recited in independent claims 1 and 10. Applicant also asserts that structure 30 does not have a top and bottom as claimed.

The Examiner takes exception with these assertions and remains of the position that the features recited in independent claims 1 and 10. Elements 30 are seen as being "partitions" in that they separate the "slots" 32 in which the tape cartridge is held.

The Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in the first office action in the subject matter of claims 2 and 11 and would encourage the applicant to incorporate this subject matter into the independent claims 1 and 10.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sarah Purol. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. Tue. Thurs. For general questions (or to request a formal interview) relating to this application please e-mail the examiner at Sarah.Purol@USPTO.GOV.

The examiner prefers e-mail to telephone correspondence whenever possible.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Sarah Purol
Primary Examiner
AU 3634